

# ISTHMIANS' CONFUSION

THERE was a certain amount of confusion about Friday night's Isthmian League Council meeting where at first it was decided to shelve plans for expansion and then overruled with a statement that it will be rescinded at the next meeting on December 8.

The proposal to halt any expansion for 12 months was put forward by Sutton United after difficulties had arisen about certain details of the expansion. It was passed by 11 votes to 10, with Wycombe Wanderers abstaining.

But it was later revealed that the proposal was out of order as a motion had already been passed at the League's annual general meeting. This was the four year plan of chairman Barry East with several ideas of expanding the league, which was passed unanimously.

Sutton's proposal came after a move to adopt a group system with the present clubs as an alternative to promotion and relegation. It was defeated by 15-7.

Details on the entry of certain Southern League clubs to the league were not disclosed but while the Isthmians are unable to come to any sort of definite decision on the reconstruction of the league, it is unlikely that the Barnet's and Wealdstone's of this world will be willing to join.

And a decision will be needed soon if they are to attract the Southern Leaguers. Any club resigning from the league after December 31 could be fined up to £500. With the Isthmian League seemingly in a state of confusion, they are unlikely to join, at least at this stage.

What may happen is that the Southern League clubs will join the new look Isthmian League, once it has got off the ground. If they can prove it is a viable proposition, then the Southern League could well be in favour of joining, but at the moment they will probably stay where they are.